REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 14, 2003 (Paper No. 2). Claims 1 to 3, 6, 8 to 11 and 16 to 18 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is independent. Claims 4, 5, 7 and 12 to 15 are being cancelled, and Claims 1 to 3, 6 and 11 are being amended, herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Regarding a formal matter, the Examiner is requested to indicate his consideration of the art cited in the March 21, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement, and to return an initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants' undersigned representative.

By the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. 4,675,747 (Hanma), Claims 3, 4 and 10 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hanma and U.S. Patent 5,060,069 (Aoki), and Claims 5 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hanma, Aoki and U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0050568 (Nonaka)[1].

Cancellation of Claims 4, 5, 7 and 12 to 15, without prejudice, renders their rejection moot. With regard to the remaining claims, reconsideration and withdrawal of their rejection are respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

The invention concerns an image sensing apparatus using a radiation generating apparatus that generates radiation, a sensor portion, which includes a plurality of pixels for detecting an object image, a read-out circuit adapted to read out signals from the

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[1] Nonaka is not prior art to the subject application for purposes of a rejection under § 103(a), since Nonaka is commonly owned with the subject application and is available as a reference only under § 102(e). See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). However, since it is believed that Noaka has published foreign counterparts which themselves are available as a reference, the rejection has been treated on its technical merits. However, should the rejection be maintained, the Examiner is respectfully requested to locate and to cite appropriate ones of the published foreign counterparts.

plurality of pixels, a power supply circuit adapted to supply electric power to the sensor portion and to the read-out circuit, independently. An exposure permission timer of the image sensing apparatus is adapted to generate a radiation exposure permission signal to the radiation generating apparatus a predetermined time after the power supply circuit supplies the electric power to the sensor portion, and a control circuit is adapted to control the power supply circuit so as to supply the electric power to the sensor portion at a first timing and supply the electric power to the read-out circuit in association with the radiation exposure permission signal generated by the exposure permission timer.

Thus, according to certain of the features of the invention, a control circuit supplies power to the sensor portion, an exposure permission timer generates an exposure permission signal to the radiation generating apparatus a predetermined time after power is supplied to the sensor portion, and the control circuit supplies power to the read-out circuit in association with the radiation exposure permission signal.

The applied art, namely Hanma, Aoki, Nonaka, is not seen to teach or to suggest these features.

It is conceded, at page 5 of the Office Action, that neither Hanma nor Aoki discloses the use of a radiation generator. In addition and as a result, neither Hanma nor Aoki is seen to disclose an exposure permission timer that generates an exposure permission signal for use by both a radiation generating apparatus and a control circuit, the latter of which supplies power to a read-out circuit in association with the radiation exposure permission signal generated by the exposure permission timer.

Nonaka is not seen to remedy the deficiencies noted with respect to Hanma and Aoki.

More particularly, Nonaka is seen to describe an image sensing apparatus which determines an irradiation state based on sensor output, and controls the start and end of image sensing based on the sensor output. See Nonaka, Abstract. More particularly, Nonaka is seen to describe an image sensing unit 22, which switches from a sensing state to an output state based on a comparison of an irradiation amount with a threshold irradiation amount. See Nonaka, paragraphs 54, 62, 68 and 76.

However, Nonaka is not seen to teach or to suggest a radiation exposure permission signal for use by both a radiation generating apparatus and a control circuit, the latter of which supplies power to a read-out circuit in association with the radiation exposure permission signal.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims are each dependent from Claim 1 and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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